

Mills River Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization PTO Meeting Minutes

October 19th, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order/Attendance

Jessica Lucas

Kevin Ensley, Kacie Tilley, Tracy Klaes, Stacey Klepp, Lauren Klocko, Amy McKinstry, Betsy Casebolt, Whitney Powell, Katie Foley, Beth Campbell, Katherine Dare, Sara Burroughs, Jennifer Stallings, Nicole Sweat

President's Welcome

Jessica Lucas

- Jessica could not be present today.

Mills River Park Presentation

Nicole Sweat

- The Park will keep the Cow from Mills River Creamery.
- Requesting feedback for what we want for Mills River Park after the large land purchase and moving forward.
- Open suggestions: Disc Golf, mini Disc Golf; Pump Track; Fine Performing Arts like for open space bands
- Possibility of indoor play structure? Fairly evenly requested because of in the winter it's cold
- Events lawn v. events venue has been suggested and discussed
- Looked at what everyone wants v. municipality our size can handle but in partnership with the County
- Pool – potentially lose Etowah pool and so would have that base to use a pool at Mills River.
 - o Nicole – nearly impossible to staff (biggest issue), expensive to maintain & for Mills River to charge what it would cost would be a tax subsidy
 - o Suggestion – a Splash Pad instead
- Parks Department is looking to the future, towards a population increase as well
- Betsy – Question about connection from the park to our school
 - o Nicole: Last week the town adopted a plan for sidewalks and greenways, no funding, but the good news is that the DOT now has to include pedestrian passage to updated roads (Safe Roads to Schools).
- ? re: Adaptive Swing – Would be a good idea to add one more, not just for physically disabled, but one who needs that type of swing for sensory issues – also maybe something like a sand area, something soft
 - o Nicole: The park received a grant specifically designed for those issues. No swings but by this time next year that will be under construction, so additional sensory play areas will be put in.

Treasurer's Report

Tracy Klaes

- What's on the Budget print out is not complete because Fundraiser \$ has not come in yet.
- Tracy is overbudget on Spiritwear
- Double count on Agendas & is working with Larissa on that issue
- \$ for the fan has not come out
- School Store is making a profit, \$856 above
- We're doing good with \$ at the moment

Vice President's Report

Lauren Klocko

- Playground – handful of parents were interested, meeting date not set because it hinges on Nicole Sweat's availability (most likely 4:30 or later) – Nicole provided books & brochures & the idea is that we will pick 10 from a certain company & the kids will vote on 3 of the 10.
- Explanation of Playground & Playground Committee – Now we are doing enhancements to the playground because the county decided to pay for updates to all elementary schools. PTO needed to wait until the county's portion was complete before we made decisions as to what we were putting in as our portion.

Secretary's Report

Katherine Dare

- None

Dads Group

Kevin Ensley

- Pumpkin Day – To be handled by Dad’s Group.
- Not doing Fall Beautification because we already did it
 - o Issue for some members – Kevin is doing Beautification on his own and the group wants to schedule it with families. It’s a nice community building day.
 - o Betsy suggestion – November because a thankful month.

Fundraising Committee (The Rock & Fast Pass)

Campbell, Dare

- Katherine reported \$30,000 minimum raised for the Fall Fundraiser. Great job all around. This is the biggest earning Fall Fundraiser in 6 years.
- Katherine asked for the Good & Bad Feedback
 - o Tracy – Needs a smaller group of volunteers. Sometimes it’s hard to include everyone when there are 8 or 9 people there, but only half were needed. Suggested trim down the volunteer number next time.
 - o Kacie – From the volunteers they want to come and be involved.
 - o Wording was a lot on the Student Sheets
 - o Maybe a Facebook advertisement
 - o Lauren – Way better than the Read-a-Thon because they didn’t have to log minutes
 - o Betsy – Confusing because the Board couldn’t match up with the system
 - o Love that there wasn’t a pickup of “things” at the end
- Katherine and Tracy – we attempted to get that to work with the system and it just wasn’t possible, so on short notice this is what we came up with
- Tracy – 150+ BINGO Boards turned in from 300+ registrants
- Amy – Jessica said the kids have kicked butt 2 times in a row & she & Amy want to do something big
- Katherine – November Meeting is the 1st discussion for the Spring Fundraiser because we are not rushing and cramming in planning at the last minute
 - o Really need to give a huge shout out to Tracy for stepping in and taking on the heavy load when Katherine normally would have, she rocked the fundraiser!

School Store

Amanda Ledbetter & Kacie Tilley

- Kacie: Incentive Day – every kid that registered for the Fundraiser got a Falcon \$ and the kids loved it almost all were there, but the ones who were not will be taken care of. Ms. Fletcher recommend doing it again.
 - o Kacie – 100% would love to do it again in the Spring and pass it on to parents next year but don’t know we could do it 1 day because only 10 minutes per class is not enough. Would need to break into 2 days.
- Suggestion: whole school incentive.

Staff Appreciation Committee

Jaquez, McKinstry & Rusert

- Amy – Apple Cider Donuts went over really well, teachers were really appreciative
 - o Thinks the every 9 weeks idea is going well
- Tracy – Kacie wants to have a school/teacher cart to distribute things/items/presents to the teachers, Teachers would give us a list of desired items
 - o Suggestions – ChapStick, bath bombs, fuzzy socks
 - o Thinking – day the week prior to Winter Break but it would all depend on school’s calendar – Betsy would ask for donations for the items
 - o Suggestion – questionnaire to send to teachers with what they want from a special present day
 - o OR maybe a drink cart – hot chocolate or coffee
- December gift - \$5 Starbucks gift cards,

Spiritwear

Tracy Klaes

- Doing really well, one more event and we’ll be in the positive
- Purchased 381 items – Sold over 100, sold out of a lot of sizes of different items (especially black long sleeve) & hats (ball caps)

- Purchased display cabinet for from office – not delivered yet, shipping issue – It will go in the front office or main hallway entrance

Volunteer Coordinator

Betsy Casebolt

- No events she knows about yet
- Do we need it for Pumpkin Day? The Dads don't like it the signup, so it doesn't work like it does for other events. Kevin will handle it with the Dads Group.

Leader In Me

Kacie Tilley

Clubs update from Ms. Fletcher

- 1st Club Day was last week, and it was amazing. The kids were so happy for it to be back and very appreciative.
- \$100 given to each club for startup and the rest will be for field trips and the showcase.
- Next Club Day is November 20th – Monday of Thanksgiving week
- 38 clubs – Ms. Socha's Club is the Lego Club & her Dad will help

Superintendent Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

Katherine Dare

- Meeting is tonight, will report next meeting.

New Business

Picnic Basket

- West – Mr. West Henderson Fundraiser – Proceeds go to 3 families, and one is from our school. The idea is do a Fall Basket
- Beth – Last year it was huge
- Ms. Lou is asking for help from PTO.
- Katherine to ask about candles from Ashley Webb & other donations.
- Pageant is November 4th – Issue it it's the same day as the Rugby Rally

Beautification Help

- Briggs donated hay bales and pumpkins
- Mums from Briggs Betsy purchased
- Christmas Trees – Tracy will stain them or paint or whatever is best. Kevin and Tracy will finish the trees.

Wrapping Paper Fundraiser

- Do we want to attempt this fundraiser this year?
- Kevin says No
- Everyone says No
- If we don't do the fundraiser – can we give out a roll on the cart rolled around to teachers as a present
- Jessica still wants to do the Santa Sighting December 9th

Ideas for Other Sponsors

- Lauren pulled up last year's list of sponsors & has been transferring those.
- Fox Racing new suggestion

Spirit Night

- Chick-Fil-A

Teachers Want

- Freezer for Ice Cream – asked for a freezer to be put in the library

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 16th @ 1:00 pm

Workshop Meeting: Playground Committee, TBD Purchase Request Committee, TBD